

Restoration of Glory

As we know the Bible has two Testaments with 66 books. The Old Testament has 39 books and the New Testament has 27 books. Both Testaments are divided into five. The Old Testament has 5 books of Moses, historical books, books of wisdom, major prophets and minor prophets.

Nehemiah forms part of the historical books.

The history of Israel teaches us how God could relate with people on earth. When God loves people He commits Himself to those people. For God to retain His sovereignty, He must have laws that must be obeyed by all subjects. In the history of Israel, we see God giving them the Promise Land and instructions for them to in that land. When Israel was wrong we see God punishing them. The ultimate punishment for Israel was to loose the Promise Land. It was for the second time as they had been in Egypt.

Why study history

It is a story of God and His people. A God who bound Himself by covenant to one people and now He binds Himself to us by the new covenant. We learn about God who keeps His promises. He promised them two things: to bless their obedience and to curse their disobedience. The same God who keeps one promise will keep the other. When He sent them to the exile He was keeping His promise. We see this in Lev. 26:44.

Why 70 years. One of the laws of Moses was that the land needed to rest. So, God commanded that every seventh year they should not take crop from the land. They did not do that for 500 years. The land was 70 years without rest so, they had to go out for 70 years. Lev. 25:1-7

There were two exiles.

At some point Israel was divided into two because the civil war. There was Israel and Judah.

Israel was removed first by Assyria and then Judah was taken out by Babylon.

When the Babylonians came, they did not wipe out all the Israelites at the same time. The Israelites were deported in three groups at three separate times.

They started with the rulers. Daniel was part of that group and he was still a teenager. When they got there Daniel and his companions made the decision that they were not going to defile themselves.

1 Cor. 2:2

The second group was the craftsman. Ezekiel was part of that group.

Then Babylon came the third time to take the rest of the Israelites and then the Jerusalem was ruined and destroyed.

There were three returns:

The first one was by Zerubabel who was the royal line of David. That is why he is listed in the geneology of Jesus in Matthew 1.

The second was by Ezra. He brought the Levites so as to restore the religious life of Israel.

The third was by Nehemiah who built the physical walls of Jerusalem.

The book of Nehemiah happens when it was time for the third return.

The walls were built in 52 days because people had a will to work.

They had internal and external difficulties.

Nehemiah was a happy man. He was a man of prayer. Long and short. Private and secrete. He prayed before and after.

There are no prophetic words or miracles in Nehemiah but we see God working in the Gentile leaders Cyrus and Atexaxes. God can work in the hearts of the people who don't know Him. We see Israel going back to sin.

What do you do if you hear that God has a need?

There are many problems that exist in the body of Christ. One of the major problems is people who do not have a burden for the things of God. People are doing their own things whilst God is doing looking for people to administrate His kingdom. A burden is a sense of responsibility.

Sometimes it sounds nice when you hear a person saying "I always invite God in everything I do".

This statement sounds good but in other dimensions it becomes redundant to always ask God to be part of what you are doing. At some point you need to quit whatever you are doing and ask God what He is doing. Whatever God tells you, it becomes a burden in your heart.

To carry a burden of God you must:

1. Understand spiritual language

God does not only speak through visions and dreams but He also speak through people and circumstances. A burden is given to one person to carry but affects other people and it is bigger than you. It is generational.

God can speak through circumstances like He spoke to Jonah (John. 1-4);

He can speak through thoughts (Amos 4:13)

He can speak through supernatural manifestations (Ex. 3:1-4)

He can speak through the scripture (2 Tim 3:15)

He can speak in a still small voice (1 Kings 19:12)

2. Be enveloped by God. This means you must live in Him.

Ex. 34:1-5, 29-30

3. Be willing to carry it until the end.

Lk. 9:62

4. Be willing to deny yourself

Mt. 10:38

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Mt. 16:24

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Heb. 11:24-25

2 Cor. 11:27